

were pending when I thought such review was appropriate. Such requests are a matter of judgment and I am convinced that my judgments were ethical, sound and good.

While I made requests for reviews of some pending decisions on behalf of people who were contributors, I also made such requests on behalf of people who were not contributors, or who to my knowledge were not contributors, a fact the Independent Counsel failed to mention.

Finally, the American system of financing political campaigns and party operations has many faults and badly needs correcting. Doing this is a difficult task, but the difficulty should not be an excuse for not doing it.

For any institution or activity that is based on voluntary contributions — campaigns, churches colleges and universities, the United Way or the Red Cross — contributors of large sums of money have more influence than those who make small contributions.

Those who make large contributions usually will have more access to the decision-makers in these institutions than those who contribute small sums of money or those who do not contribute at all. Therein lies the imbalance. Unless and until reforms in campaign finance laws and practices are achieved, this imbalance will continue — and the appearance of impropriety will persist.

I am pleased to have an opportunity to make this statement in response to the Report of the Independent Counsel.